



**August 27, 2004**

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF APPLICATION for STATE OF WASHINGTON WATER QUALITY  
CERTIFICATION UNDER SECTION 401 OF THE FEDERAL CLEAN WATER ACT**

Interested parties are hereby notified that the following application has been received for a water quality certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act, pursuant to the requirements of WAC 173-225.

This notice is only intended to inform the public of proposed project, and ask for comments by local, state and federal agencies and the public.

**EVALUATION:** The decision to issue, deny or condition the water quality certification (WQC) will be based on the following: for WQC, it is necessary for the proposed project to comply with the applicable provisions of the federal Clean Water Act and appropriate State aquatic protection requirements.

**REQUESTOR:** Washington Department of Transportation, South Central Region

**AGENCY OR CONTACT:** Bill Sauriol

**FEDERAL AGENCY ACTION:** The Corps of Engineers is reviewing this project under the Nationwide Permit Program. Final decision by the Corps of Engineers will determine if permit coverage under the nationwide permit program is appropriate or if an individual 404 permit will be required. In either case Ecology has determined that an individual 401 Water Quality Certification will be required.

**PROJECT:** State Route 24/Interstate-82 to Keys Road

**LOCTION:** SR 24 from Mile Post 0.15 to MP 1.53 in Yakima City, Yakima County, Washington.

**RECEIVING WATER:** Yakima River and Blue Slough

**PROPOSED ACTIVITIES:** The Department of Transportation is proposing to widen SR 24 from two lanes to four lanes between MP 0.15 to MP 1.53. Other construction activities for this project include removing the existing Yakima River Bridge and replacing it with a longer spanning bridge. A temporary work platform will be constructed for the removal of the existing bridge. A new overpass structure will constructed over I-82. The on and off ramps to the I-82 overpass will be reconfigured to increase highway capacity efficiencies. The existing culvert at the Blue Slough Crossing will be replaced with a larger culvert. Bicycle and pedestrian facilities will also be constructed as part of this project.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:** The removal of the existing bridge will require in-water work for the construction of a temporary work platform and will entail 0.10 acres of temporary impacts to an existing wetland. The vegetation within the wetland will be mowed to minimize impacts where possible but some tree removal may occur. Any trees removed in relation to the temporary work platform will be replaced with plantings. The location of the new bridge will also entail removal of existing trees and will be mitigated through riparian planting along the Yakima River. The new bridge structure will shade vegetation in 0.10 acres of existing wetland. This impact will be compensated for by planting trees in the riparian zone of the river. Tree removal in other areas will also be compensated through riparian planting along the river.

The culvert replacement work at the Blue Slough crossing on SR 24 will impact 0.03 acres of wetlands that exist on the north and south side of the existing culvert/road crossing. These wetland impact areas are immediately adjacent to the culvert and roadway. These wetland impacts will be mitigated through compensatory wetland mitigation; new wetland will be created adjacent to the Yakima River.

The application and related documents are available for inspections and copying between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. weekdays at the office of Ecology as listed below. Further information may be obtained by calling Yvonne Oliva, Public Disclosure Coordinator, at (360) 407-6799.

**Evaluation Criteria:** The decision to issue, deny or condition the water quality certification (WQC) will be based on the project's compliance with the applicable provisions of the federal Clean Water Act and all other appropriate State aquatic protection requirements

**COMMENT AND REVIEW PERIOD:** Ecology is soliciting comments from the public, State, and local agencies and officials, and other interested parties in order to evaluate the impacts of the activity. Any comments received will be considered to determine whether to approve, condition, or deny a certification for the proposed work. **Comments should be sent to:**

**Penny Kelley  
Department of Ecology  
PO Box 47600  
Olympia WA 98504-7600  
pkel461@ecy.wa.gov**

**The comment period will last 20 days, from August 27, 2004 to September 15, 2004.**

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